



**Llysfaen Singers**  
**Survey to Members July 2024 and**  
**Improvement Plan 2024/2025**

**Survey to Members 2024**

Comments from Choir Survey, 2024	Comments in Response
<p><b>What do you like about being a member of Llysfaen Singers?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friendly and welcoming community singing group 22</li> <li>• Choir is improving 2</li> <li>• Tom’s enthusiasm and leadership 5</li> <li>• Jay’s support 2</li> <li>• Thanks to committee 6</li> <li>• Singing a rich variety of genres 7</li> <li>• Love the challenge of new music 3</li> <li>• Social activities, including the Black Griffin afterwards 4</li> <li>• Friendly communication 1</li> <li>• Opportunities to sing in concerts 2</li> <li>• Welcome distraction from everyday life 1</li> </ul>	<p>Choir membership has grown significantly over the last two years to 50+ members. It is good to know that the warm and welcoming ethos of the choir continues to attract and retain membership and that singing for everyone is a most welcome treat on a Wednesday evening. The input of our two musical professionals very much sets the overarching tone of the choir with the wide choice of genres of music appealing to most members. Nearly all members enjoy the challenge of new music and continue to thrive on the ‘wrong and strong’ principles set by Tom. The work of the committee is appreciated, with members recognising their input into concerts and ‘behind the scenes’ management of day-to-day operations. The post rehearsal drink at the Black Griffin and other social activities are most welcome and enjoyed by many.</p>
<p><b>What aspect of Llysfaen Singers could be improved?</b></p> <p>Starting time</p>	<p>Starting time</p>

#### Starting time

- Prefer starting time of 7pm 2
- Prefer starting time of 7:15 1
- Prefer starting time of 7:30 3

#### Rehearsals

- Shorter warm ups 1
- Proportion of time not singing 1
- Go over last week's songs to consolidate learning 2
- Practise individual parts separately 1
- Learn techniques to help listen to other sections 1
- Replace warm-ups with gentle singing 1
- Need to know what songs we are singing each week to listen to them before rehearsal 1
- Spoken practice track for all songs that are not in English 1

#### Concerts

- Men sing better in a block rather than a line 1
- 2nd row of stage is problematic 1
- Take soloists from choir members as we now have a larger choir 1
- T & B to sing more on their own 1
- More concerts 1
- Sing more pieces off copy 1

#### Communication

#### Starting time

This will be on the committee agenda for the start of the academic year 2024/2025

#### Rehearsals - See Priority 1

All rehearsals will continue to start with shortened physical, voice and cognitive warm-ups. Most warm-ups will then continue with singing through pieces practised the previous week to consolidate the learning from that rehearsal. To this end, members will be encouraged to listen to their part on Googledrive before each rehearsal to be reminded of what they practised the previous week. New voice parts will be practised as a whole choir, where appropriate, to give confidence to those voice parts and to keep everyone singing during rehearsals. A spoken practice track will be prepared for the song that is not in English.

#### Concerts – See Priority 2

The layout of voice parts in the stage area is always problematic and depends on various factors eg how many chairs need to be or can be fitted onto the area; how many members are in each part and to ensure no member from a part is by themselves on a row. Different layouts can always be trialled where members suggest alternatives to the one that is proposed.

The repertoire for concerts will be analysed in terms of timing and variety for each concert. If necessary, MD with the backing of the committee will decide if it is necessary to have soloists, whether there are willing performers from the choir or whether different parts can sing on their own in concerts. At least one song will be sung off copy at all concerts.

The question of whether we have more concerts or make appearances at concerts very much depends on whether we have enough members to sing at them and whether the professionals are available. Three main concerts per year is a big undertaking for the choir, the professionals and the members of the committee who are organising.

#### Communication – See Priority 3

In the absence of a more permanent Secretary on the committee, communication

## Improvement Plan 2024/ 2025

### **Commentary**

A survey was undertaken in June 2024 to gauge the opinions of members on what they liked about Llysfaen Singers; what aspect of the choir they thought could be improved; what was one thing about the choir that they would change. 52% of members completed the survey. Nearly all viewpoints have been taken into consideration and this Improvement Plan has been formulated from them. All ideas suggested by members have been addressed in the Improvement Plan.

Tasks	Timescale	Persons involved	Progress R.A.Y.G.
<b>Priority 1:</b> To continue to improve rehearsal outcomes and format			
<b>Success Criteria:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehearsal tracks will be made available for all songs as well as spoken tracks for any songs not in English</li> <li>• Rehearsal tracks will be used by nearly all members in between rehearsals</li> <li>• Parts will have greater confidence in what they are singing</li> </ul>			
1. Rehearsals will start with a very short warm-up to include physical, voice and cognitive exercises	June 2025	MD	
2. Consolidation of the previous week's learning will take place at the beginning of most rehearsals as part of the warm-up	June 2025	MD	
3. New sections of music will be sung by all parts initially	June 2025	MD	

**Action taken**

**January 2025**

- Rehearsals are now starting with shorter warmups in all areas. These include one song rehearsed/taught the previous week, based on evaluation of quality of learning by the MD.
- New song parts are sung by all members during initial practice sessions to give confidence and volume to the part.
- All songs have been recorded onto rehearsal tracks. These are available in individual parts on Googledrive for members to practise at home. MD has announced which songs will be sung the following week so that members can listen to the rehearsal tracks at home.

**April 2025**

**June 2025**

**Priority 2:** To improve concert outcomes

**Success Criteria**

- Members will be able to see the MD when performing
- Programme of concerts is balanced eg between genres, pace, timbre and texture
- There will be opportunities to perform to outside groups

1. Shorter members at the front and taller members at the back where possible for all concerts	December 2024 and June 2025	Committee	
2. The repertoire will be analysed in terms of timing and variety for each concert. If necessary, MD with the backing of the committee will decide if it is necessary to have soloists, if there are any willing performers from the choir or whether songs by one or two voice parts could be included. At least one song will be sung off copy at all concerts	November 2024 and May 2025	MD Committee	
3. The committee will consider all invitations to perform outside the usual Christmas and Summer concerts and will accept if there is a reasonable number of members and the professionals are	July 2025	Committee	

**Action taken**

**January 2025**

- Members tend to stand in parts and in height order: some sat on chairs. MD did not need to use the LS box to stand on at any concert. Members stood on the stairs at the Cottage and could see the MD very well.
- Timings and choice of songs for each concert was appropriate. Next year, there needs to be a different audience participation carol from 12 Days of Christmas and a change from It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Sarah ? was the soloist to accompany the choir singing Jesus Christ the Apple Tree and All I want for Christmas, soloing Little Road to Bethlehem. She was paid £60 plus gift of flowers. Consideration will be given to soloists from the choir for any song chosen by the MD/committee for the summer concert.
- The committee received a total of seven invitations to sing in eight different concerts during then lead up the Christmas. Two were turned down; one because of a clash in scheduling (Cerebral Palsy Cymru) and the other because of expectations from the choir and therefore not good VFM (St Denys Church). One concert was cancelled (Llanishen lights) and one concert was unofficial (Black Griffin). All concerts had good audiences and were well received by the audiences

**April 2025**

**June 2025**

**Priority 3: to improve communication**

**Success Criteria**

- All members will be fully informed on the choir's activities
- All members will be encouraged to nominate songs to be included in the repertoire
- Members records will be up to date

<p>1. WhatsApp groups will be set up for S and TB groups. This will be the main method of communication to most members. The same information will also be sent to members not wishing to participate in WhatsApp from a new choir email address.</p>	<p>September 2024 ongoing</p>	<p>Voice Reps Chair Secretary</p>	
<p>2. All members will continue to be given the chance to suggest songs from the back catalogue as well as new ones for both concerts. MD to draw up a shortlist from these suggestions and bring resources and ideas to the committee for ratification. MD to explain where the nominations came from</p>	<p>July 2024 and January 2025</p>	<p>All members MD Committee</p>	

3. New members will be given a welcome pack to include general information, gift aid form, registration form, GDPR form	June 2025	Voice reps	
<p><b>Action taken</b>  <b>January 2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All parts now have WhatsApp groups and are using these successfully to pass on relevant information to all members. The groups have been particularly useful for sharing short videos of concerts which can then be posted onto the website. All members have agreed to join their group and no members have to have information sent out to them separately by email.</li> <li>• All members, via the WhatsApp groups, have the opportunity to suggest new/back catalogue songs for inclusion in the next season's repertoire. The committee have ratified MD's decision effectively. MD has also pointed out in rehearsals which part(s) have nominated which songs. MD has also asked for Christmas 2025 suggestions in advance. These will be ratified in the September 2025 committee meeting.</li> <li>• The general information sheet for new members has been updated. The Gift Aid forms and GDPR forms will, subject to the committee's approval in January 2025, be uploaded onto the website so that members can print off their own forms. Treasurer will chase up those who haven't signed the Gift Aid forms; Secretary to ensure all GDPR forms are signed and that members give email addresses for correspondence. Voice Reps to ensure new members give permissions for WhatsApp groups.</li> </ul> <p><b>April 2025</b>  <b>June 2025</b></p>			